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them. The genera *Limnotherium*, *Thinolestes*, and *Telmatolestes*, especially, have the principal parts of the skeleton much as in some of the Lemurs, the correspondence in many of the larger bones being very close. The anterior part of the lower jaws is similar to that of the Marmosets, but the angle is more produced downward, and much inflected. The teeth are more numerous than in any known Quadrumana. Some of the species have apparently forty teeth, arranged as follows: Incisors $\frac{2}{2}$? canines $\frac{1}{1}$, premolars and molars $\frac{7}{7}$. A full description of these interesting remains, the first of the order detected in this country, will be given by the writer at an early day. — O. C. MARSH, in the *American Journal of Science and Arts*, Vol. IV, Nov., 1872.

THE EOBASEILEUS AGAIN. — I have just received a paper "On the Gigantic Fossil Mammals of the Order Dinocerata, by Prof. O. C. Marsh," which contains a formidable catalogue of errors which the author appears to suppose I have committed in describing animals of this type. All this is explained by the fact that Prof. Marsh has never seen the genus *Eobasileus* Cope, and erroneously supposes it to resemble *Uintatherium* Leidy (*Dinoceras* Marsh.) The descriptions which I have given are correct, as will presently appear, as well as the fact that I have anticipated the Professor in the description of some of the allied species. — E. D. COPE, *January 31st*, 1873.

ANTHROPOLOGY.

ARE THEY TWISTING STONES?—Associated with the various forms of stone implements and weapons found upon the surface of the fields in New Jersey are certain flat, quadrangular plates of stone of varying density, having one, two or more holes drilled through them. The outlines of these stone plates vary considerably, as may be seen by the reference to the drawings of seventeen specimens given by Squier and Davis, in "Ancient Monuments of the Mississippi Valley," p. 237, Fig. 136; and the position of the holes will also be seen to vary to a considerable extent. Of the two-holed specimens found by the writer, in the neighborhood of Trenton, N. J., the majority are about six inches in length by one and one-half inches in breadth; and the perforations are in most instances about an inch from either end. Such specimens as these are by many archæologists considered "twisting stones,"

or "for condensing the raw hide or sinews used as bowstrings." We have, however, looked upon them as "breast plates;" using that term not to designate a protective covering, but as an ornament that was suspended by a cord so as to rest upon the breast; or by the perforations, sewed or fastened securely to the skin mantle of the red man.

We have considered this to be the case, because in the "surface" burials—that is, graves originally on the surface, and now but little beneath it—which we have frequently discovered, we have found these perforated stones, of various shapes, lying upon the strip of black mould which once was a human body, *always* in such a position as to show that, whatever the object's use, it was placed upon the breast of the dead man, when the burial took place, or was one of the ornaments about him during life, and so was buried with him; and it seems strange, that if such a stone had been used solely as a "twister," that it should be placed upon the breast, instead of at the feet where the domestic implements are found, or at the right side, where we find the arrowheads, an axe or two, spears, knives and lanceheads.

Very many of these perforated stone relics, too, have but a single hole drilled through them, and being of such small size, and variously outlined, it is no stretch of the imagination to set them down as ornaments for suspension from the nose and ears. These single-holed specimens run into the others, as it were, just as the spear and lancehead are but large arrowpoints. Again, there are other specimens of this class of relics, which have more than two holes, sometimes as many as seven; as though the stone had been drilled again, when coming into the possession of another. At the ends of these many-holed specimens particularly, there is often found a series of well-cut notches, too small and closely set for any special use; but it seems to us very suggestive of a record that the owner of the stone has kept; and if so, the use of the stone as an ornament, worn at the breast, becomes the more probable, the specimen having additional value given it by the record, if such it was, that is engraved upon its margin.

Mr. Evans, in his work, "Ancient Stone Implements of Great Britain," figures, on pages 380-1, specimens allied to those we have described, but having the holes drilled in pairs, at each end. They differ further from the American forms, by being usually "round on one face and hollow on the other;" while as a rule, at least in

New Jersey, they are flat upon each side, with more or less beveling of the edges.

With reference to the use of these plates, Mr. Evans quotes Rev. Canon Ingram, as suggesting "that these British plates were bracers or guards, to protect the left arm of the wearer against the blow of the string in shooting with the bow." Had this been one of the uses to which some of the American forms had been put, would it not have been retained by the Indians until now? And does any tribe of our aborigines use such a guard when hunting or fighting with the bow? There seems to be much reason, indeed, to believe that these plates were "bracers," in England, and it may be that many of the American forms were used in twisting cord and in condensing sinew; but as we have found so many in graves, in the position we have described, we cannot but think that the vast majority were merely for ornamental purposes. — CHARLES C. ABBOTT, M.D.

COLLECTIONS OF SWISS LACUSTRINE RELICS. — The present notice is written for the benefit of gentlemen interested in prehistoric archæology, who may be desirous of acquiring a collection of relics from the ancient lake-dwellings of Switzerland. I obtained myself a pretty good series of those objects through Mr. Jacob Messikommer, the well known owner and explorer of the celebrated pile-work of Robenhausen, on the shore of Lake Pfäffikon, Canton of Zürich. This lake formerly extended farther inland, and the site of the lake-village is at present occupied by a formation of peat, containing a great variety of relics which illustrate the curious phase of existence of those lake-dwelling people. Among the objects in my collection I will mention stag's horn in a natural or worked state, frequently made into sockets for holding hatchets; bone awls and chisel-like instruments; saws, cutting implements, scrapers, arrow and spearheads of flint; stone axes and chisels, crushing-stones, whetstones; pieces exhibiting the method employed in sawing and splitting stone for making axes, etc.; pottery, plain and ornamented, in fragments and in the shape of complete vessels; articles of wood, such as floaters for nets, twirling-sticks, etc. Of particular interest are the specimens of cloth, woven from flax, and perfectly preserved, owing to the carbonized state in which they occur. In the same condition are the numerous vegetable remains found in the peat around the piles. The most im-

portant, of course, are those that served as food; for instance, ears of wheat and barley, and agglomerations or lumps of grains of these cereals. Millet was likewise found, but no rye. Even pieces of wheat-bread, in which the grains can be plainly seen, have been preserved. There are small apples cut in halves, hazelnuts, beechnuts, raspberry-seeds, stones of the wild plum, and other eatable productions of the vegetable kingdom. Flax sometimes occurs in fibres already prepared for spinning.

The fauna of that period is represented by a great number of animals, the osseous remains of which Mr. Messikommer obtains in large quantities from the peat. Some of these animals differ from the species now existing. The bones found at Robenhausen are always examined and classified by Professor Rüttimeyer, one of the best osteologists of our time. The pile-work in question belongs to that remote period in which the use of metals was not yet known, and articles of bronze, therefore, are not found at this place. Mr. Messikommer, however, is in constant communication with the archæologists of Switzerland, and is thus enabled to procure by exchange the objects of bronze occurring in the Palattines of later periods. He informed me some time ago that he is now prepared to furnish the typical objects of bronze, such as arrow and spearheads, knives, sickles, fish-hooks, ornaments, etc. His prices, of course, vary according to the character and condition of the specimens; but I can state from personal experience that they are low, considering the great labor and time it requires to obtain these remarkable tokens of the past. Mr. Messikommer is a gentleman of well established character, and the objects offered by him may be relied upon as being perfectly genuine. I will with pleasure give more detailed information to collectors who wish to enter into communication with Mr. Messikommer. — CHARLES RAU, *New York, February, 1873.*

MICROSCOPY.

SECTIONS OF THE ORGANS OF HEARING. — The following hints, abstracted from the papers of Mr. H. N. Moseley and Dr. U. Pritchard in the "Quarterly Journal of Microscopical Science," will be of use to beginners, not only in preparing the organ referred to, but in dealing with many cases involving some of the same difficulties. A guinea-pig is the most desirable subject, though the cat, dog, rabbit, rat, or other animals may be used. The ani-